

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Office Memorandum  
 RECEIVED  
 JUL 21 1981  
 ATTORNEY GENERAL

TO : David Giese Ed Ross  
 Pauline Bouchard Jim Nye  
 Gary Englund

FROM : Michael P. Convery, Hydrologist  
 Section of Water Supply  
 and General Engineering

DATE: July 15, 1981

PHONE:

SUBJECT: Proposed Abandonment of "Old St. Louis Park Well #1"



During the past year, the City of St. Louis Park has been raising a proposal to permanently abandon municipal well #1. This well was drilled in 1932, but was quickly removed from service after it developed taste and odor problems. It is currently a 337' well, drawing from the Prairie du Chien aquifer. It was originally open hole to 540' (open from the Prairie du Chien into the St. Lawrence), but has since filled to the 337' level with scale, sand, and some debris. The casing schedule consists of 213.5 feet of 16" casing (seated within the St. Peter) and 80 feet of 12" casing (seated in the Prairie du Chien). The casing terminates at 287', so there is a slight overlap of casings. There does not appear to be any grout.

At the last meeting of the St. Louis Park Working Group (June 18, 1981), Dick Koppy stated that the City had reached an agreement with Colorad to exchange the land for the removal of an old water tower. Colorad will remove the tower (estimated cost of \$10,000) and pay some money in exchange for the property. Colorad owns the adjacent property and would like to expand its operations. Dick Koppy stated that an easement would be maintained and the well would be available for monitoring purposes.

On July 6, 1981, Vern Tollefsrud met with Ed Ross, Jim Nye, Roman Koch, and myself. Vern stated that Colorad does not want the well and refuses to follow through on the original agreement as described by Dick Koppy. Vern asked us if we had problems with permanently abandoning the well. Ed Ross expressed some strong concern about the possible necessity of a recovery well in this area and the State's liability if this well was abandoned and a new well subsequently had to be installed. I stated that the location of the well relative to the buried bedrock valley is the critical factor. If the well is west of the valley or within the valley, it may very well be incorporated into a barrier well system. I agreed to check with Steve Shakman on the legal questions and with Marc Hult and John Erdmann on the necessity of maintaining the well.

I contacted Dennis Coyne on Tuesday, July 7 (Steve Shakman is on vacation) to discuss legal implications. He stated simply that if the State wants to keep the well, we should express this to the City clearly. The City will then have to make a decision, based on the City's legal advice, to abandon or maintain the well. The City will then assume some liability. The City will have to make a decision based on all the factors. It may be less costly to have the tower removed, sell the land to Colorad, and abandon the well now than it is to drill a new well later.

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Marc Hult stated that the well is located on the western edge of the buried bedrock valley and may be appropriate as a recovery well. However, this well will require some reconstruction since there is no grout. For example, a 6" well may be grouted in the existing 16" x 12" well. The drift in this area is heavily contaminated and some groundwater may be flowing down the annular space or into the well if holes exist. In terms of location, the well is in an ideal location, but it will require some reconstruction.

John Erdmann and Gene Hickok felt strongly that the well should not be abandoned. It is in a very likely location for a recovery well. Construction of a new well would cost \$20,000-\$30,000. Also, this well has been used for monitoring purposes for 25 years by the U.S.G.S. and is clearly the well with the best historical record.

It is clear that the well is in a probable location for a recovery well. However, it will require some reconstruction if it is to be used as a recovery well. At this point, I would recommend that the well not be abandoned and be maintained for possible incorporation into a barrier/recovery well system. I am somewhat concerned about the sudden change in events regarding the land purchase. At the very least, the reason for this change should be explained.

MPC:mrs

cc: Richard Ferguson, MPCA  
Dennis Coyne, MPCA ✓  
John Erdmann, Hickok & Associates  
Marc Hult, USGS

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